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純粋なる叛逆者

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Youhei Monogatari - WN Chapter 00-01 Part 4

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Late Checkout

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Youhei Monogatari *Junsuinaru*

Hangyakusha (Rebellion) Prologue 1 – Late Checkout

Author: [TheCatWalk](#) Category: [Chapter Update](#), [Youhei Monogatari](#) 1 Aug 16

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Hello folks! This is our new project! “傭兵物語 ～純粹なる叛逆者(リベリオン)～ <*The Story of Mercenaries The True Rebellion*>”

We got a new translator for this, he'll post his own intro in chapter 3 so look forward to it. And anyways, without further ado, “Dark Past” Alert!!

In a certain village, a youth awakened from a nightmare. He was a young mercenary named Yuuto, who after leaving his master's side came to Sacks Village and accepted his first commission. Will the youth be able to successfully finish it?

His legs hurt, he had trouble breathing. Just how long had passed since he entered the blazing forest? Nevertheless, he had no choice but to stand up and run. If not, he would be caught and killed.

Even when he tripped on a stone he got up and ran. Even when he crashed into trees he stood up and ran. Even when he tripped on a corpse, he got up and ran. Impatience, fear, despair, everything that he felt turned into tears and sobbing as it left his body.

Before long the blazing red scenery left his sight, as he collapsed with a sense of relief. His pain disappeared, and he tried to put his breath in order. Without knowing how a dark veil covered his eyes as he was wrapped in tranquility.

The youth suddenly opened his eyes. The refreshing sunlight coming from the ever so shining sun passed through the window, as if it wanted to erase the nightmare he was having. But the youth thought it was unnecessary as he got up from the bed and started to stretch his muscles.

And then, he let out a sigh. Again, that dream. The youth had been seeing the same dream ever since that day. Honestly, he felt it was a bother as he was becoming visibly depressed.

“Even though it’s been 10 years since then.... Can’t something be done about this, honestly...”

Looking downcast, the youth mumbled. After a while, the door to the room opened with a creaking sound as an old man entered.

This made the youth remember,

That’s right, yesterday I didn’t camp outside but lodged in an inn.

The old man looked around the room, and said with a sigh,

“This is troubling, mister traveler. You’ve stayed well past the time for your checkout you know?”

“Eh? Wait... What’s the time now?”

“It’s past midday. The church rang the first bell a moment ago. Now then, I need to clean this place up so please do hurry up with your packing.”

Saying that the old man took a mop with a no use arguing attitude with the youth was not able to stop.

The youth got up, and hurriedly started to put his things in order. He wore a flexible black leather trouser which put priority on mobility. The trousers had metal plates attached to the shin portion. As he was hurrying he accidentally bashed his feet into it.

While his legs were hurting he put on a black leather jacket. The jacket had 2 side and 2 chest pockets...or it was supposed to have them, but they were nowhere to be seen. The youth had worn it inside out. He took off the jacket and put it on properly.

Why the hell are you so slow?

The old man thought. The youth put his belt on and then attached the item bag to the belt. As he did that, he noticed something.

[It] wasn't there.

The youth's face paled as he quickly looked around the room. It wasn't on the table, nor was it on the bed. He searched under the pillow but it wasn't there either. No matter where he looked he couldn't find [It]. He became covered with cold sweat as he was prepared for the worst case scenario.

"Was it, stolen?"

"Customer, it's outside the room."

"What?"

Just as the old man said, it was beside the door outside the room. It was leaning on the wall. An old reddish brown scabbard, the handle was worn out, and there were marks off it being mended with his own clothes.

The youth picked up the scabbard with his right hand, and grabbed the handle with his left hand. He then gently pulled out a white blade, which was reflecting his face. As he moved it a bit, what reflected there was the sunlight coming in from the windows as it dyed his whole figure like a white obi.

It was proof of him carefully and gently taking care of the blade. As he was carefully sheathed it, he fastened it on his back. [It] referred to this Katana.

He went down the stair and neared the shaggy old counter, where there was a man resting his chin on his hand. The man took out the inn register and..... didn't say anything. In other words, *hurry up and pay the bill, then get lost.*

The youth signed his name with the quill pen and put the lodging of 10 copper coins on top of it. He looked inside his item pouch, and there was only

15 copper coins remaining. This much was enough to have a decent meal at the town shops. He thought that, while pondering what to have his breakfast with.

“Wait a second, kid.”

“What is it?”

“Late Checkout, you’re 10 copper coins short kid.”

Late Checkout. Because they needed to clean the inn, it was imperative that the lodgers left early. But if one spent a few more coppers he was allowed to stay longer.



In this case, as the youth overslept he had no choice but to pay extra. Looks like he had to give up on breakfast.

The youth clicked his tongue as he tossed 10 more copper coins onto the counter. A copper coin rolled down the counter and fell on the ground with a clank.

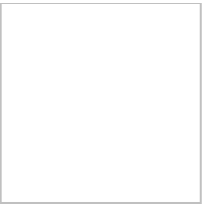
The man picked up the coin, as he looked at the register where the name [Yuuto] was written in a crude manner.

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Okay, nothing to say today.... ... Maybe a game? XD [Song of the deep!](#)

“Hey kid, observe how we do our work, and try to learn something.”

“That’s right, try to properly keep up with us seniors.”

“Well, there’s no brutal monsters around these parts. Don’t wimp out, kid.”

The three men holding musket rifles said one by one as they passed through the waist-long grass with rustling sounds. Yuuto who was about 3 steps behind the men followed them.

The verdant grass and weeds growing on the grasslands called [Minke Prairie] tried to obstruct their way forward. It was as if they were trying to warn them of the danger ahead, hinting them not to proceed any further.

Along such, Yuuto crouched down along the path the three men walked on and plucked a beautiful fresh flower while muttering,

“Watch and learn, was it?..... Are these people really allowed to say such stuff to others, I wonder?”

Yuuto spun the stem of the flower for a bit, and then put it in his item pouch. After that, he continued to follow the three.

It all started two days ago. After Yuuto left the inn with a growling stomach, he continued northwards towards a certain village. The small village called [Sacks] was situated along the Misak highway.

He reached this village without encountering any monsters or getting mixed up with bandits while camping outside for only 2 nights. This village earned its livelihood either by hunting or farming and paid their taxes — a typical village you would find anywhere.

There was a reason why he came to this village. This place had a [Guild]. The people of this world, especially the commoners, had to pay taxes to the kingdom by using the tax collection offices.

There were various forms of doing this, like handing over a percentage of the business proceeds, or using crops. If there were villages that specialized in metal products, there were also villages that gathered minerals. There were also many who depended on hunting, so for them, they could hand over leather as a form of tax.

But there is a danger attached to collecting these. That's where [Guilds] come in. Here, if you post a request and pay the amount necessary, there will be people who will accept the request and collect the things in your stead. Without any particular rules and restrictions, anyone can accept requests from guilds.

By the way, Yuuto was someone who [accepted] requests. And he was a beginner.

Opening the door, what he felt first was [It stinks!] followed by [Noisy!]. The double doors shut with a sound. This Guild building was also a bar, and he realized that the stink was the smell of alcohol. It seems like this bar-type guild establishment was quite a success even during mid-day, mainly as a bar that is.

As he was about to feel dizzy because of the smell, Yuuto quickly passed the drunkards as he headed for the counter, but...he saw a scene he could not believe there.

“Uya~.....Hick!”

Even the receptionist was drunk...well, that’s troublesome. As Yuuto was getting perplexed, the drunk receptionist looked at him.

“What is it, kid? If you wanna post a request I’ll give a blank form; write the details and the amount of reward there and..... pin it one the board.”

“Wrong, I accept requests. So it’s the board over there huh.....”

After he found the old board where requests were published, he saw a load ton of parchments pinned to the board with nails. Yuuto tore off one of those from the board roughly as he passed it to the receptionist.

“Oi Oi Kiddo.... You’re a cheerful one aren’t ya, subjugating wolves? Well yeah, it’s a high paying errand for this village but, did you go blind seeing all this pocket money?”

“No way. Rather than that, it’s okay to accept this right? And the other folk here are all drunk either way.”

“Yeah I don’t mind, but... wait a bit. OI! You three!!”

The receptionist called out to the men hanging around inside the bar, as three of them stood up and approached them. Maybe they were brothers. The three of them had short hair, unshaven faces and were carrying musket rifles.

“Take care of this kid.”

“Wait a minute! I alone am enough.”

“It’s gonna leave a sour taste in my mouth if you die. Sorry kid,4 but I’ve got no choice here ‘kay?”

So even though he felt disgraced, he ended up accepting the quest alongside the Musket wielding three brothers, aka the [The musket brothers].

Returning to the grasslands. The errand Yuuto took was simple. He was to hunt 5 wolves that appear in the grasslands. The requester was the curio shop of the village. The wolf livers would be used to make medicine, so there was a request put up to hunt them.

While walking behind the three, Yuuto took a look around them. It was a

wide grassland. If they went unskillfully they would probably overlook a lot of things. And most of all, the grass was a hindrance. Wolves who moved on all fours could easily hide themselves. They had to be careful of surprise attacks.

“By the way, kid, you’re holding quite the unusual sword there.”

Suddenly, probably the eldest of the three brothers, the tallest one, talked to him.

“Are you saying it’s old-fashioned? That guns are already better than swords?”

“That’s not it, it’s just, isn’t it hard fighting with the fast moving wolves with just that? Here, use this.”

Saying that, the man tossed something to him. Yuuto caught it and confirmed what it was. It was a flintlock pistol. He put it in his item pouch and then following the men, headed for their destination.

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Author: [AvidReader](#) Category: [Chapter Update](#), [Youhei Monogatari](#) 8 Aug 16

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Editor: TheCatWalk, Kyureki



Hey guys, new translator here.

I guess this is the part where I introduce myself, huh... Well, I'm from New Zealand and I've studied Japanese for the last 6 or so years and have been a fan of anime for just slightly longer and have been reading LN/WN for just over a year and a half. I saw that Cat was taking on a new project and the synopsis looked interesting so I thought it was high time to stop being a leech and actually give back to the community, while also taking this time to further improve my Japanese.

I never knew before I started how difficult this could be... (O_O)

Many thanks to Cat and Kyureki for helping me out whenever I came across a confusing sentence and didn't know how to put it into English. I'll be in your care from here on out. m(__)m

Anyway, enough about me, **BADASS SWORDSMAN INCOMING!!!**

It was when the sun was at it's highest point of the day. Yuuto and the three Musket siblings were having lunch as per schedule. That said, it was quite a modest fare.

The contents: jerky that was preserved for use, dried fruits as well as biscuits that were no less than hard and bread that had left out the liquids. This so-called “Hardtack” was much too hard to eat and had to be soaked in coffee to make it soft.

Despite that, it still felt hard....

“H.... hey....”

“Hm?”

“Your teeth, are they cracking?”

Yuuto was making a grinding sound without change as he ate. It sounded as if he was eating rocks. Yuuto, with a nonchalant look, chewed, then swallowed and drank the hot coffee in one gulp.

Nevertheless, it is a beautiful meadow, Yuuto thought. The wind blew the vegetation, gently stroking it, the pleasant sensation of the sound passed through his ears.

After a while, the three brothers who were annoyed by Yuuto with his rock crunching that could be considered harassment finished their meal, got up and once again started to head to the hunting grounds

“....1....2....3....4....5....”

However, just as Yuuto was counting, towards the 3 brothers he saw a lot of wolves suddenly appear. Then, Yuuto continued to count. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11....

Then, after he counted 15, Yuuto started to roll his shoulder, clicking his joints. The second brother who was irritated with the suspicious behavior said provokingly.

“Hey! This isn’t the time to be messing around! Get on with it, you stupid brat!!”

“Ah, sorry about that... by the way, how many were we supposed to hunt again?”

“Huh?! It was 5 of them, 5!! What about it!”

“Well, it’s no longer necessary now.”

Huh?! The second brother roared at Yuuto's attitude and then realized. In the grasses on the plains here and there were some dark shadows and because of his voice, he didn't notice the small and faint growls. Yes, the wolves had surrounded all of them.

At the abrupt situation, the second brother tried to fire his musket.... however.

“SHI-!!”

The bullet wasn't loaded, on the contrary, there wasn't even flint on the firing hammer. The first and third brother seemed to be the same, and this was the result all three brothers having been negligent in their preparations. Furthermore, to adequately prepare would take time. Attaching the flint, loading the bullet, filling the gunpowder; The wolves would not wait for that. From the thicket, a wolf agilely leaped at the second brother.

In those few seconds that felt like several tens of seconds had passed, in the scenery that was slowed down, the second brother frantically thought. He hid behind the musket to as he tried to protect himself.

No matter how he thought, a “good idea” to get out of this rough situation wouldn't come to him. He just stared blankly, as he could only accept those fangs coming towards him.

Near his field of view he saw his older and younger brother's shouting figures, he wondered if they would be his final view. As the fangs approached his throat, the wolf's mouth gripped tightly like a puzzle piece that fit perfectly, then.....

“GYAAAAAaaaaaa..... Huh?”

The wolf didn't bite down, there was no feeling of something sharp piercing him, on the contrary, the wolf wasn't acting violently at all. However, there was something that he realized: Was a wolf always this light? Then he understood the sight before him.

The wolf didn't have a body.

“Hiiiiiii!!!”

For the second time today, the second brother let out a miserable scream as the decapitated head of the wolf lay on top of him. However, inside the

madness, he saw it. The first and third brother also saw it.

Before anyone noticed, Yuuto was standing there with his sword drawn, red blood dripping off the naked blade after making a horizontal cut. Nearby was the wolf who had seemed to attack, it's body convulsing and continuing to spurt out blood.

"14 left...."

Shaking off the wolf's blood still stuck to the blade, Yuuto confirmed the number of wolves left inside his head. Their numbers hadn't increased, but it seemed having killed one had angered them.

The reality here was they could retreat temporarily, but Yuuto could see in his head the wolves catching up to them and making a meal out of them. Now they had no choice but to fight to survive. He held his sword loosely in right hand.

Then from the front, two wolves charged at him. Yuuto had waited for that timing before he started running as well. Then the moment the wolves leaped at him, as he passed through the gap between them, he swung his sword in a circle.

A red band of blood appeared as the two bodies landed with a thud. Following that, he released a side kick to the one leaping at him from the left which was accompanied by the feeling of something being crushed underfoot and the sound of something breaking. The third one died without so much as uttering a sound.

"11 left."

This time, aiming for a surprise attack, the sounds of 4 wolves rushing towards his back came. Yuuto immediately turned to face them, as two advanced along the ground while the other two threw themselves onto him, aiming for his throat!!

"Too slow!!"

As Yuuto cried out, he first smashed the face of the wolf leaping at him with a high kick, then for the second and third running along the ground, using the force from the high kick, he twisted his body and slashed out with all his strength using the drawn sword in his right hand, bisecting both of them at the same time.

The last one, he grabbed by the neck and slammed into the ground, stabbing it in the neck.

“7 left.”

From Yuuto came the confirmation. However, in a flash, the remaining wolves spread out and charged at Yuuto. But as they were just animals, they couldn't understand that it was a foolish move.

Yuuto sheathed his sword and took a low stance. Then, the moment when the wolves entered the optimum range, he advanced without stopping! Starting with the first leaping at him, he severed its head as he drew his sword.

“6!”

Furthermore, stepping forward grandiosely, he laid to rest the second and third, blood splashing over his body. Paying no mind to that, for the fourth, fifth and sixth, he cut upwards in a reverse slash.

“5! 4! 3! 2! 1!!”

After that, the final one he also dispatched cruelly, like passing through it, he cleaved it in two with a single strike.

“0!.....”

In only a few minutes, those fifteen wolves bodies ended up as a mountain.

The three Musket brothers had no choice but to stand there in blank amazement. As a mercenary, they had stepped onto the battlefield before. However, in their years, as well as passing their knowledge of the limit of strength, they had never seen the event the boy in front of them had made into reality.

“....And, that's that.”

In front of Sack's Guild, the receptionist sighed when he saw Yuuto. After that Yuuto, leaving the three Musket brothers who looked like they couldn't even stand properly for a while, gathered the corpse of the wolves by himself and returned to the village.

The curio shop that was the requester was a tad put off at the amount which was more than requested as he left a bag filled with copper coins, then

tiresomely carried away the corpses one at a time. However, that was was not the reason he sighed.


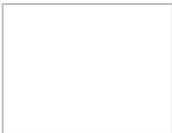
The receptionist originally intended to have the three brothers teach him about how rough the work here was, but that ended up backfiring. He didn't want a young boy like him that wasn't even an adult yet to be taking on jobs from the guild.

“For the time being, I’m going to be in the care of this Guild.”

Saying that, Yuuto with wolf’s blood still stuck to him, went towards the inn to clean up.

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Hello everyone.

Your new translator here joining the project for Youhei Monogatari. I'm currently studying Japanese at a university in the U.S.

I've been studying Japanese for around 4 years, and a native English speaker with some Chinese speaking skills. That's it about me, and enjoy the chapter below.

Prologue 4 – The Collapsed Peddler and Herbicide The next day, at the village inn, Yuuto completed the guild's quest.

Once again to the grasslands, Yuuto made his way there for a request for five bundles of antidote herbs. Without any disturbances, he began to gather.

Yuuto was walking on a small path to return to the village while the sun began to set, dyeing the surroundings the color of dusk.

Hanging off of his shoulder, was a bag packed full of the herbs. As for why there were more herbs than the requested amount, if it were to be said simply, it was to earn extra money.

Suspended from his shoulder, was a bag packed full of herbs, more than the original requested amount. As for the reason for exceeding the requested

amount, to be put simply, it was to earn extra money from the additional herbs.

Just before reaching the village, Yuuto had some difficulty seeing due to his eyes not used to the dusk yet, and there was a sudden strange sound as he stepped on something.

“Ah?”

Yuuto let out a voice at the strange feeling and looked down to confirm what he had stepped on.

There, it was a collapsed man wearing a bandana laying on the ground. The man had a large bag under his arm that was even larger than him.

“Did he collapse and die from hunger?”

At first when Yuuto had stepped on the man’s head, he had this thought, but judging from the size of the bag, there should be some rations in reserve.

As a test to check if he was alive, Yuuto kneeled on the ground with one knee and put his hand on the man’s neck to check for the pulse.

However, before that could be done, the man’s hand moved with a quickness like a reflex movement and seized Yuuto’s ankle. Yuuto immediately grabs the man’s head and pins it down against the ground.

And placed the weight of his body through his legs onto the opponent’s back to pin him down. Using the gathering knife, Yuuto placed it against the nape of his neck.

With his other leg, Yuuto places it with his body weight on the man’s back in order to pin him down. Using a gathering knife from the pouch, Yuuto placed it against the nape of the man’s neck.

“Quite an elaborate trick to be playing dead, huh? If you move, you’re dead”

With him pinned down, is he going to give up? The man released Yuuto’s ankle and perhaps because his face was pressed against the ground, he let out a groan.

However, Yuuto sensed the man’s discomfort. He began to break out in sweat and released a painful sounding groan. Yuuto began to have doubts and

shifted the man's head to the side to have a look.

The man had dark circles under his eyes and pale skin. Surprising Yuuto, he quickly placed his hand on the man's forehead to check, "Fever!?"

He quickly pulled back his hand from how high the man's fever was. In short, the man had suddenly collapsed from illness while walking and had grabbed the ankle of Yuuto who had been passing by seeking help. This is bad, thought Yuuto. The man was laid down into a comfortable position, and Yuuto walked until he arrived at the village.

"I think he's already getting better, he'll recover soon."

"Is that so, that's good then."

After the village doctor said that, he left the room. After leaving the man alone, Yuuto received help from the villagers to carry the man back to the inn. The man appears to be the peddler carrying goods from the town to the village. Along the way, the peddler appears to have been unfortunately bitten by a poisonous snake.

The extra antidote herbs gathered was useful. However, was the peddler not carrying any on him? Yuuto felt some doubt in the peddler because of that.

"Well... It seems I saved him so it doesn't really matter"

It's already late, let's return to my room and sleep since it was a tiring day. Yuuto decided to come back to the room later, and put his hand on the door knob to open it.

"nnn... uuuuu"

At that time, the bed made some creaking noises, and the peddler lets out a moan. Ah, it seems I was noticed.

Just in case so he doesn't panic after waking up, I'll have to explain the situation to him. Yuuto releases his hand from the doorknob and heads toward the bed.

"Huh, I'm..."

The man spoke in a strange accent. First I'll confirm what happened to him. He looked around and finally looked at the approaching Yuuto and said, "Hey,

what district of hell is this?”

“Did you think there would be such a comfortable bed in hell? You were bitten by a poisonous snake and collapsed in the area before being saved”

Did he recall all of it? A little strange face appeared on his face and he scratched his head.

“Ah, ah! So that’s what happened, huh. I remembered everything. You were the guy that put the knife against my throat and threatened me.”

“That was your fault because you suddenly grabbed my ankle. The least you could do is show me some gratitude.”

Tsk, so he remembers that too, huh. Talking anymore would be pointless. While pretending to not see the peddler, Yuuto turned around and left the room.

“Please wait, young benefactor”

Suddenly, Yuuto stopped. However, he immediately regretted because he might have to listen to the peddler’s story.

That was troublesome and since he was going to take a request from the guild tomorrow as well, he wanted to sleep on a soft bed in preparation for tomorrow.

Let’s hurry up and finish. If I said, “Is that so, well then, take care”, that would instantly make this conversation end.

“What is it?”

Yuuto looked over his shoulder to look at the man. There, the man was reaching into the oversized bag with his hands making a rummaging noise.

Before long, the man lifted his arm from the bag with a clenched fist holding a vial, and threw it at Yuuto. Yuuto caught the vial and inspected it.

The vial was transparent with a brown liquid within that was rolling from side to side. It was a poisonous looking potion.

“What’s this? Poison?”

I mean, that’s all it appears to be. However, the peddler called Ashidaka said

an unexpected product name. It was...

“It’s herbicide.”

“Haa?”

The first impression that came to Yuuto’s mind was of the so-called herbicide that farmers use to kill weeds in the field.

It’s unusable...

If it was poison then it could be spread on a sword, or if it were a salve then it could be sold since there are quite a lot of medicinal herbs.

However, it was only herbicide. How is this usable? Yuuto placed it into his rucksack. Just in case, I should say thanks and just leave.

The next day...

Knock, knock. Yuuto, who was sleeping upright on the bed, was awoken by a loud noise of someone knocking on the door.

“Who is it?”

Yuuto grasped the sword near his pillow with his left hand and headed to the front of the door. Being able to draw his sword at any time was plenty preparation, and Yuuto slowly inched the door open.

There were two brawny men standing there, and between them was an old man with a cane. The old man was wearing glasses and had an extremely long mustache.

“Young man, could you receive a small request?”

The old man said to me while stroking his long beard.

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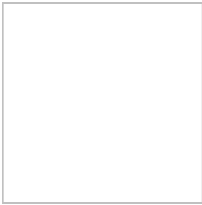
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Doomr

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Youhei Monogatari *Junsuinaru*

Hangyakusha (Rebellion) Prologue 5 – Odor of Temptation and the Helpless Husbands (First Part)

Author: [AvidReader](#) Category: [Chapter Update](#), [Youhei Monogatari](#) 3 Sep 16

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Here we are with another Youhei chapter.

Oooh boy. Translating can be really difficult. Especially when you're like me and are one of those people that can't sit still for hours without going off and doing something else and then forget about what you were doing before... (-_-)

Anyway, starting to get a hang of things and if I fail Kyureki-sensei is there to help me out. Thanks a bunch. m(_ _)m

But enough rambling, SEXY PLANT INCOMING!!

“Unusual disappearances?”

“Yes, that's right.... Young Mercenary.”

Sax's village headman had come early in the morning to visit.

He had heard from the villagers about Yuuto who had recently been staying at

the inn and taking care of work at the village's guild.

And now, the village headman had come to tell Yuuto about a certain problem that had come up.

Before crossing the Minke Plains, there's a forest called Yashino Woods. Sax's villagers go to hunt and gather herbs there.

But, recently the men who went out hunting would have one person who wouldn't come back. The first disappearance happened the day before Yuuto arrived in the village. In the week that's passed since that day until today, ten of the village's men have disappeared.

Therefore, the contents of the request were like this: Find out the origins of the disappearances and rescue the missing villagers.

The advance payment would be 20 silver coins. If he succeeds then he'll receive a further 50 silver coins and 30 copper coins. With 50 silver coins, he could stay at an inn two levels better than the one he was in now for a week with meals included and still have a lot of change leftover.

He had no reason to refuse. Yuuto accepted the 20 silver advance payment and headed towards Yashino Woods.

A little after noon, Yuuto arrived in front of the forest but was greatly troubled. The reason being, vines had entangled themselves across the entrance, with it being no exaggeration to say that it already looked like a wall.

With so many vines growing repeatedly without end like this, it would take a long time to cut them down one by one. However, if he were to burn them, the aftereffects would be troublesome.

"Now then, what should I do?"

Taking some dried jerky out of his bag, Yuuto began to chew on it. Whenever he was at the end of his ropes or wanted to concentrate, he'd always do this. Then, when he took out another piece of jerky, a phial fell out of his bag.

"Ah...."

A dark reddish brown liquid spilled out from the phial. It was the herbicide he'd received from Ashidaka that had fallen out. He'd thought to sell it to the farmers

later so Yuuto hurriedly picked it up.

It was a shame. From the beginning, it was just an ordinary liquid that poured out, so by the time he picked it up half of it had disappeared. As soon as he put the lid back on the phial, an unexpected spectacle was seen in front of Yuuto's eyes.

"Huh? You're kidding?"

It was as if someone had thrown a pebble into a pond and a ripple had spread out. The grass up to his waist began to wither from the roots and before long, the vines that had kept Yuuto from proceeding had rotted away.

Then, with all the vines rotten and withered, the path into the forest had opened up. With a look of shock, Yuuto gazed at the bottle of so-called "herbicide" that was far too effective.

This is already a strong poison. That peddler called it an herbicide but if it was used in the fields, they'd never be able to be used again.

Shaking the liquid in the phial as he gazed at it, Yuuto put it in his bag and set out through the entrance that had opened up in front of him.

"....Can't find a thing."

After that, how long had it been? Relying on the animal trails, Yuuto continued to search for the villagers. With the coming of dusk, the forest was dyed in the sounds of insects calling. Once he thought to return to the village, he arrived at the inner part of the forest.

It can't be helped, tonight let's camp out for the first time in a while. This was all the time he could spare for searching, otherwise, monsters would surround him and it would be like the time he was surrounded by wolves all over again.

Thinking that, Yuuto dropped his bag and started to set up camp. First off was eating something. He took out some hardtack and dried jerky, but then in Yuuto's view something sparkled.

Thinking it strange, Yuuto put the food in his hand back into his bag and approached the tree with the shiny object. Glittering at the base of the tree there was a lead bullet from a musket.

However, Yuuto had a bad feeling about this. In any case, it wasn't a used bullet but a brand new one at that. After being fired, there would be a small mark left behind from the gunpowder igniting and yet there wasn't one.

Speaking of that, Yuuto rummaged in his bag and took out the pistol. It was something that he'd been given by the Musket Brothers but he'd forgotten to return it.

However, as usual on the brother's pistol no gunpowder or bullets have been put in, on the contrary, not even a flintstone had been set. He doesn't carry useless object like gunpowder or flintstones. His bag space isn't infinite.

Yuuto threw the pistol and bullet away somewhere. Now then, it was finally time for dinner so Yuuto reached inside his bag.

It was at that time. Yuuto's nose picked up some sort of scent. It wasn't the peculiar smell of herbs or antidotes nor the savoriness of dried jerky.

Then in that moment his consciousness turned towards something, a smell that made his body throb. It wasn't an unpleasant smell, rather he felt it was only a pleasant smell. Yuuto carrying his bag on his shoulder went towards the place the smell was coming from.

Step by step, the smell got stronger. Pushing through a thicket, folding branches, his feet moved deeper into the forest.

Then just when Yuuto came out into an open area.

"WHA-?!"

Suddenly, something came from his side and with a strong force, sent him flying. Yuuto's legs had left the ground because of the remaining force. Still, with the ground and the sky rearranged, Yuuto was able to see that something in that clearing.

"V-vines?!"

Seeing that shape, he planned to cut them down when he landed on the ground and went to draw his sword. But feeling a presence from behind, he stopped and quickly crouched down.

Passing just a couple centimeters overhead, a wind cutting sound was ringing

in Yuuto's ears. Then Yuuto realized there wasn't only one vine.

This time for sure, Yuuto drew his sword and quickly checked his surroundings. There were ten vines altogether, and all of them were waiting for some purpose.

"Ara, what a cute little boy."

Suddenly, a captivating woman's voice was heard and Yuuto turned his line of sight to the direction it came from. And found out the truth behind the mysterious disappearances.

Yuuto curbed his aggression as tied up in the sturdy vines were the village's men. To the left and right were five men apiece, ten all added up. Exactly as the village headman had said.

In the center, standing on top of a thick trunk grew a large, blue rose. From there, a voluptuous and glamorous, thin blue-colored woman with only her upper body exposed, which made Yuuto bend over from the arousal.

"If I....reveal everything, then the village's woman will probably be sad."

Yuuto was at his wit's end. This monster, known as the Alraune, was a monster that seduced men and absorbed their vitality to live. Furthermore...

"Blue petals... You've been in this forest for a long time? How many men have you sucked clean?"

"Oh? That's right... roughly in the three digits perhaps? But bu~t, for humans, these people might be my fi~rst."

With that tone resembling of a harlot and pretty, blue petals fluttering about, the Alraune had grown up absorbing a huge amount of vitality.

'Blue Alraune'

Alraune were among the knowledge that he had crammed into his head, but this was his first time seeing a real one.

"Sorry but, because I have to return those people that were taken... can you let them go?"

Saying that, with his sword leaning on his shoulder, Yuuto glared the monster with a sharp glint in his eye. However, the Alraune, the petals exposing her upper

body, bent over and returned his words.

“I wouldn’t mind taking a favor from a cute little boy like you bu~t, rather than being teary eyed, you seem like you might swing that blade at any moment after all.”

“Ah, so it’s a negative answer then? Because it’s my job, I also wanted to avoid getting hurt... right?”

Lowering his sword,since the difference in combat strength was despairing.. He’d looked for openings but it was hopeless. However, since he’d already received the request, he had to complete it.


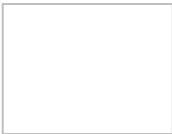
“Shall we start? Monster.”

“Come he~re, little boy?

With that conversation, Yuuto broke into a run.

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Kay guys, another chapter out. Please enjoy.

btw I talked with the Author in twitter the other day, here's some stuff he said,

Words from the author : 「Credits to Kyureki for Translations」

「"To everyone reading Youhei Monogatari... Hello to the overseas readers of Youhei Monogatari *Junsuinaru Hangyakusha (Rebellion)*. This is the author Shindou jr Kazuhiko. After being surprised seeing my novel being translated into English on a translation site, I emailed the site's twitter. I was surprised when I found out that people overseas were reading my work and very happy. It hasn't been that long since it started being published, but knowing that people overseas are reading it made me very excited. I'm still very inexperienced, but I will work hard to become an author that can entertain everyone. Please continue to support Youhei Monogatari *Junsuinaru Hangyakusha (Rebellion)*

He knew how to cope with the situation. Firstly, cutting off all the vines it was controlling won't have much effect. In other words, if he could cut down the main trunk than it's his win.

But the always bending thick and heavy vines were like a whip, always obstructing his advance. Even if he could dodge the fine points of the vines, they always bent and chased after Yuuto.

Furthermore, even if he could avoid that one, another one would swing towards him with a shrill sound. And there were 10 of these annoying vines. If he was careless then soon he would collapse and end up being nourishment for it.

“Oh my, little boy? If you just keep on avoiding me, there won't be any progress, you know!!”

The vines mercilessly increased in speed. As the ten vines attacked him from all directions, Yuuto dodged them by narrow margins.

But, things were exactly as it said. Yuuto kept thinking. Let alone swinging his sword, the only thing he did was dodge. And, though he was successful in dodging, the attack of the vines soon started connecting. They left tears in his clothes, and bruises on his face.

‘This is bad, for now, I should...’

As there was no clear advancement of the situation, Yuuto felt that and in order to get away from the range of the vines, he quickly backstepped.

“I won't let you run!”

Trying to stop him, the Alraune controlled one of the vines like a spear and shot it towards Yuuto, trying to pierce him.

“It's coming!!”

But as if waiting for it, Yuuto kicked the ground and jumped into the air. After the vine spear passed below him he landed on in. With a quick sprint, he closed in at once with the main body.

He swung his sword down with all his might to slash at the crown of the Alraune. But just when there were only a few small centimeters, a sudden strike crashed into him from the left flank.

“Argh!?”

A creaking sound, as if his body was breaking. Unbearable nausea assailed him. But that wasn't all. The main body blasted Yuuto off the vine. Yuuto without even being able to get into a defensive stance crashed back first into a tree. His body bent like an arrow, and he fell to the ground.

“You don't give up, do you, little boy?”

An upside down scene reflected in his eyes which had blanked out. The Alraune grabbed Yuuto's ankle with a vine and brought him before it's eyes.

He was lifted upside down.

But Yuuto could do nothing to defend himself.

While putting on an anguished smile, he ended up imagining the figure himself turning into nourishment for the Alraune.

As that was happening, a necklace dangled down because of gravity. It was a beautiful necklace with a ruby-like red gem embed in it. The bewitching light from the necklace attracted the Alraune's attention.

“Oh my, what a pretty necklace... Wonderful timing, maybe I should take it?”

The Alraune used a new vine to entangle the necklace, trying to rip it from his neck but then it saw.

“Hey...”

And it felt it's instincts telling it to immediately part with the necklace, throw away this human and get away fast. The human, Yuuto, was holding aloft a bottle filled with reddish brown liquid as if he would throw it this way in an instant.

“Don't go calmly touching other people's things!!”

With an angry voice filled with killing intent, he threw the bottle like a fired

bullet at the Alraune. Of course, the Alraune could neither dodge it, nor could it use a vine to deflect it.

The bottle collided with the Alraune's face, as it broke with a shattering sound. The liquid inside splashed all over the main body.

"A-Aghyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?"

"Uff!"

The power in the vines decreased as Yuuto's body fell to the ground. Though he felt pain, with the Alraune's scream he knew this was his chance.

The overkill herbicide he got from Ashidaka was strong enough to cruelly kill not only the ivy at the forest entrance, but also the greenery surrounding it. For Alraune who was a monster, it was more than enough, no, rather it showed the best possible effect.

The agonizing death screams gradually turned the once fascinating voice into that of an old woman's. And the petals, alongside the whip-like vines, fell to the ground without any vigor.

Yuuto stood up and ran. He cut all the withered vines in his way. Soon he reached the main trunk. He yelled out like a brute and with a swing and cut the withering trunk in half.

"Haa...Haa...Haa...Haa..."

He thrust the blade into the ground as he breathed haggardly. His knees grew weak, and he sat down on the ground. The vines holding up the men from the village had withered so they fell down.

Before long the men who regained their consciousness turned to shock as they realized the state of things. There were many kinds of reactions; those who couldn't believe it, those who were

sighing saying that their wife would kill them.

Most probably, these guys while hunting were hypnotized by the Alraune's pollen and then turned into its nourishment.

"U-Unbelievable....."

Yuuto who was amazed in many different levels, felt fatigue taking over his body, and finally, he collapsed on the ground.

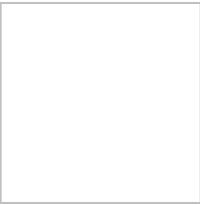
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Everything ended.

The next morning, Yuuto began his preparations.

The Alraune was caught, and the villagers strung up for nourishment were saved by Yuuto. He who had collapsed from injury and fatigue, was carried back to the village by them.

After determining the cause of the disappearances and getting rid of it, the men of the village were brought back. As for the result, it was a great success. But at the end of it things came to a close in quite an idiotic manner, as he was rescued by the very people he had rescued.

It should be called a small success instead. However, because a success is a success, I was paid in full for the request. With a jingling noise from the leather pouch full of coins, Yuuto put the pouch into his bag and fastened it to his back.

This village's requests were all mostly finished. What he was feeling now was probably the so-called feeling of loss of interest. The only thing left to do was leave for the next village and go accept an errand there.

Preparing his baggage, Yuuto carried it over his shoulder and opened the door. The current time was evening, with the evening sun shining through the window. He descended the stairs to pay the inn fee.

Creak, creak. Creaking noises rang out from the old stairs. As Yuuto reached the ground floor.

"Ah! Hey, ya woke up!"

It was Ashidaka.

"Hoho~ To think that the herbicide 'ah made was that strong! it was a blessing in disguise wasn't it."

"I actually really don't want to admit it but... Well, it saved me, alright?"

Walking along a small path, Yuuto and Ashidaka left the village. It seems all of Ashidaka's business at the village was finished and he was heading to the next village.

Since they were heading down the same path, Yuuto took up Ashidaka's offer to go together partway.

"By the way, how far are ya goin'?"

"Who knows? For the time being, a village that has a guild, probably? I haven't decided yet"

sigh, Ashidaka stroked his chin, probably thinking about something. For a little while, the two of them walked in silence till they arrived at a forked road.

Then, Ashidaka's facial expression changed for a brief moment as he said to Yuuto,

" 'Ahm headed towards Hero's town Rein, if yer were to head to Rana, than that'd be mighty wonderful."

"Huh?"

Looking at the erected signboard at the forked road, there was an arrow

pointing at a direction, “Hero’s Town Rein”. The other direction was an arrow pointing at “Rana Village”.

“I wonder if there’s a guild at Rana?”

“Ehh, ‘ah heard about that village. Ruffians have taken control of the village, and in order to suppress the trouble, they want to hire someone to take care of it, or so ‘ah heard according to rumors”

And... he continued the talk,

“If yer goal is to travel then go to Rana Village and burn the scenery there into yer mind, brother. Though it’s filled with thugs, when talkin’ ‘bout the scenery alone, even the castle town can’t hold a candle to it.”

“Is that so... Okay, Rana Village, huh?”

Certainly, this was a journey without an objective. If there’s a village with such a major emphasis put on by Ashidaka then he would really have to at least see it once. Yuuto selected the direction of the arrow pointing at Rana and walked towards it.

“Well, I’ll be doing that, Ashidaka. I’ll head towards Rana”

“Yeah. Then, we’ll part here. Stay well, young traveler”

“It’s Yuuto. Family name... Can’t remember it”

“Yeah, then stay well, Miste’ Yuuto.”


The two of them separated and headed toward their respective routes. Walking along the path, Yuuto reached into the bag straddled on his back and grabbed a piece of dried meat. Yuuto then held it in between his teeth, slowly chewing.

Before long, evening came, and the shadows of the two people could no longer be seen on the road anymore.

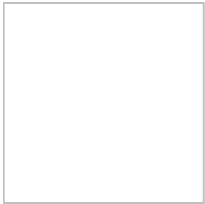
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2 chapters, off to work with seijo~

A brilliantly burning house, under the ashes, all that remained were corpses. His mother, who was usually scary was now patting his head. He, who had become frightened and was crying.

“It’s okay, Yuuto. Mother and Father will definitely protect you.”

While in her warm embrace, he saw. That his kind father was wielding a staff as large as himself to fend off the enemy’s wind blades, and manipulating the water to extinguish the flames.

But the number of enemies mercilessly increased, as he could no longer stop them himself. The mother, who saw this, before he even knew was holding a gleaming red sword and shield.

“Yuuto, run. Run far away with your legs, and absolutely do not look back okay? This is your final... promise with mother... Now, go!”

Saying that, his mother stood before his father with her shield prepared. He ran, with all his strength. But then, he broke his promise and ended up looking behind. That scene, he would never forget it.

An armored group who were trampling on his collapsed mother and father. They were using their swords, spears, and clubs to strike his mother and father. But among them, there was one who was holding a flag. And there, he saw...

“Mother! Father!”

Yuuto jumped up. But, the previous scene was nowhere to be seen. There was only a used up campfire, his bag, and a water canteen.

“Again damnit.... I’m getting a bit tired of this already.”

Muttering that, Yuuto took his canteen. After pouring a mouthful of water in his mouth he rinsed and then spat it out. Currently, it was early morning. Even the sun was not up yet. He was on his way to Rana.

Yuuto kept on walking and walking along the highway. On the neverending road, he just walked. Multiple times he had passed by traveling merchants, their carriages, and other travelers. With their directions, he just continued on his way to Rana.

After walking for a while, he noticed something on the left edge of his sight. There, he saw a group of armored knights riding their horses while making shrill sounds.

Royal Knights. They were a platoon of knights directly under the command of the king. Maybe they were in the midst of training, Yuuto observed them for a while.

While he was looking at them, suddenly a light pink colored flower petal gently, and calmly passed in front of his eyes as if it was riding the breeze. Just what was it? Yuuto looked at the direction the petal came from, it was the road to Rana.

“Ooooh....”

There, Yuuto saw a scenery he had never before seen in his life. Large trees

with blooming flowers the same color as that floating petal were on both sides of the road.

As the wind gently brushed the branches, and an uncountable number of flower petals immediately danced into the air, as it created a fantastical view.

“This, yeah. It’s quite amazing.”

Yuuto nodded. It was certainly as Ashidaka said, this scenery would forever be burnt into his memory. ‘A sight for the sore eyes’ was probably a good way to explain it. So, if he just followed the road surrounded by these trees which bloomed with light pink colored flowers, he would reach Rana.

After confirming that, Yuuto continued his way towards Rana with a small bit of expectations fluttering in his heart.

After passing through the road of the pink petals, he saw a big open gate.

The hustle and bustle he saw and heard from there, unlike the noisy bar at Sax village, was not unpleasant to him. Some people stacked up pasture on a cart while moving it with an ox, others carried crops in a basket on their back. Both women and men were wearing clothes he never saw before.

“So this is Rana village. It’s more prosperous than I expected.”

Because everything was new to him, Yuuto felt his heart move as the view was really comfortable. He decided, that he would immediately book a room in an inn and look around the village. Even if it meant holding off on his job, he wanted to tour around this village.

With an excited heart, Yuuto wanted to pass through the gate but.....

“Hold it, brat.”

He was stopped. It was probably this village's gatekeeper. He thrust his long spear in front of Yuuto and glared at him with beastly eyes.

“You bastard, you’re an outsider, aren’t you? What’s your business here?”

The gatekeeper asked Yuuto with a low voice filled with suppressed intensity. But Yuuto without any cowardice, and without returning his glare simply replied while looking at his eyes.

“I heard there was a guild here so I came to accept a request. Can’t you let me pass?”

Hearing that, the gatekeeper thought something for a while and exchanged gazes with the two robust guards sitting near him.

Both of them stood up. One of them picked up a wooden club that was leaning on a tree, and the other one neared him while cracking his fists.

And then, the three surrounded Yuuto.

“Brat, this village is ruled by us, the Zenji family.”

“Those troubles we have that you guys talk about will be dealt with by us... So, we don’t need no guild here.”

“An outsider. And hearing you talk about guilds, you’re a mercenary right? You were hired by those bastards in the kingdom to investigate us, right?”

They surrounded Yuuto as each of them shouted things at him one after the other. All three of them were releasing their killing intent as they positioned themselves to take Yuuto down.

“Huh? Wait you’re wrong. I only came here to accept.....”

Yuuto frantically tried to explain in order to clear the misunderstanding. But, then he noticed something.

Kingdom? Investigate them?

This was what bugged him. Why was the kingdom investigating about their internal affairs?



“Wait! The kingdom is investigating you guys...? What the heck are you saying? I got nothing to do with that...”

“Shut up! We’ll never hand this village over, and we’ll never let rascals like you who were employed by the kingdom lay a hand on our village! Get ready to be clobbered you stinking brat!”

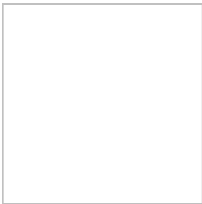
The man, with a cry, rushed straight at him.

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Doomr the slave here, presenting another chapter for you guys.

P.S. Cat made me do this with a whip in his hand...

P.P.S. A big thank you to AvidReader for finishing up the final touches for the chapter.

“What a violent welcome, geez!”

In response to the spear-wielding gatekeeper charging at him, Yuuto, without drawing his sword, twisted to the right and grabbed the spear as he avoided it.

“Arghh!”

Yuuto promptly kicks the gatekeeper's side of the chin with a side kick. Naturally, without being able to avoid the kick, the gatekeeper lifted up from the ground. With a thud-like sound and a cloud of dust, he was knocked down to the ground.

“You're defenseless!!”

Subsequently, the man holding the club took a stance, aimed at Yuuto's head, and swung with all of his strength. However, against all expectations, Yuuto approaches and tackles the man to ram him down. The cudgel in mid-swing stopped, and with his balance destroyed, he staggered back.

"Igyaaaaa!!"

Of course, not missing the chance to act, Yuuto brandished the stolen spear and swung with all his strength at the man's face. The force of the impact caused the spear to bend and break at the grip section and sent the man flying several meters away.

"OraaaaAAAA!!!"

"Just one more person...!"

The final person swung his fist around recklessly. However, such a wide swinging punch would not be able to hit Yuuto. After easily avoiding it, a sharp counter straight struck the man's jaw.

"GaguUu!!"

Because of the concussion, the man crumbled down to his knees. Even if he wanted to, he wouldn't be able to stand. It was merely a few tens of seconds. Within that short time, Yuuto successfully made the gatekeepers of the village completely helpless, however...

"I've gone and done it now."

Yuuto considered 'It was self-defense, right?' However, it didn't appear to be so. Looking at the three collapsed gatekeepers, the gathered villagers at the gate were seething with anger. Within those villagers, some were carrying farming tools, and some were preparing for a battle.

Yuuto's instincts told him that combat was unavoidable. At the worst possible development, Yuuto made a pained face. Heedless of that, however, the villagers slowly approached for the sake of saving their fellow villagers and for the sake of exterminating the evil that had appeared in their village.

Yuuto himself thought it was already impossible to avoid a confrontation and he placed a hand on the katana hanging from his waist. At that time...

“What the hell are you guys doing?!”

An ear shattering roar suddenly interrupted both parties. The villagers who heard that roar turned around at once. From where Yuuto was standing, it could be seen that the villagers were gradually parting to the sides.

From the front row of the villagers, the shape of a man appeared. He had shortly trimmed black hair, even shorter than the gatekeepers, and with eyes full of anger. Moreover, what attracted the eyes of Yuuto was the well-trained body that could be seen even with clothes worn.

“Gi... Boss Kyou sui”

Or so the side kicked gatekeeper called the man that appeared. Kyou sui met eyes with Yuuto and then changed the focus of his eyes to the gatekeeper. Looking at him for a short moment, Kyou sui crouched in front of him, and...

“Owowowoooooww!”

“Fighting again? Dumbasses! You just charge at every single outsider dammit!”

As if an ear was going to be torn off, the gatekeeper’s ear was pinched. That looks like it hurts, upon seeing that, Yuuto’s back stiffened.

A little more and the man’s ear would be separated from him. Yuuto slowly stepped up. However, there was no visible anger. And he bent his posture, placing his hands on his knees, and bowed.

“Young traveler, would you be willing to forgive these gatekeepers of their impoliteness in light of me, Zenji Group’s young head, Kyou sui Zenji?”

“N-no, I should be saying that. With the injuries on the gatekeepers...”

“Please do not mind, these guys’ heads are bad but they have sturdy bodies... Now, I’ll show you around inside the village.”

Changing completely from a while back and proceeding in such a courteous manner surprised Yuuto. Showing his back, Kyou sui headed towards the gate, and Yuuto followed along.

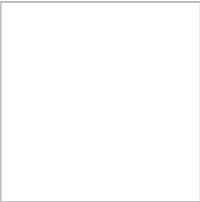
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Please contact me. Desperately need help! *Maybe*

After the small fight, Yuuto followed after the Zenji family's young master, Kyousui Zenji, into Rana village.

This village was filled with enough lively culture for Yuuto to look at the to his heart's content. Starting with the light pink colored flowers at the gates, then the lines of houses made of not brick, but wood, to the peculiar clothes the folks here wore, everything. According to Kyousui, the women were wearing [Kimonos] and the men were wearing [Samues].

"So boy, why did you travel to Rana? Are you here for sightseeing?"

At the sudden question, Yuuto showed a slow reaction.

"A merchant called Ashidaka told me... that this village had a guild. So I came

here.”

Listening to Yuuto’s words, Kyousui looked at him with his eyes wide open. Then scratching his head, he responded in an apologetic tone,

“Sorry boy... but this village does not have a guild...”

“Eeeh!?”

This is bad.

Yuuto became dispirited as he held his hurting head with his hand. It could be said that Yuuto’s only source of income was the money he got from doing tasks at the guild. Though he could also earn some by selling monster hides and herbs, these are all byproducts of doing guild tasks.

Moreover, because the village was so flourishing, the exchange rate of those kinds of materials should be really low. No, in the first place, he might not even be able to exchange at all.

Seeing the perplexed Yuuto, Kyousui kept thinking with a troubled face that he had done a terrible thing.

“Iya, sorry about that. This place is managed by our Zenji gang, and the small matters around here are all taken care of by us. Well... you could consult with uncle if you’d like to.”

Saying that, Kyousui once again scratched his head and pointed towards a building. The building was at the innermost part of the village. The building was wooden made, with a wonderful architecture that set it aside from other buildings. This also caught Yuuto’s eyes.

A big residence like this... yeah, it also has gatekeepers...

“A guest, he’s not an enemy.”

A wonderful face-pass. The quarrel from before was totally unnecessary.

—

“Are you the one? The guy who has been searching for a job in Rana?”

Intimidation... Certainly, Yuuto could feel it with his body. After being brought in by Kyousui – the master of the house, his uncle, Ojiki Zenji, squinted and

stared at Yuuto with a sharp glint in his eyes as he sat on the floor about 8 meters away.

And his eyes weren't the only thing. Beneath his samue, the outline of a robust body could be seen, despite his age.

But, above all of that, the thing that made Yuuto the most uncomfortable was the tradition of sitting called [Seiza]. This peculiar way of sitting, with the knees folded like that, was supposed to be the etiquette of this village. For example, when listening to an elder speaking, the young were supposed to sit in this style.

“Ehh? I mean, yes. During my travels, I was told that if I came here I could earn money...by a merchant called Ashidaka...”

“Ashidaka... that young merchant huh...”

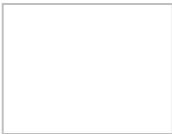

The gaze that Ojiki used to look at Yuuto while he stroked his long white beard, was as if he was examining him to try find something within Yuuto. With a long sigh, Ojiki then picked up the pipe beside him and puffed out some smoke.

“Traveling at such a young age, and moreover as a mercenary... This world really has become messed up... Then, I have a request for you.”

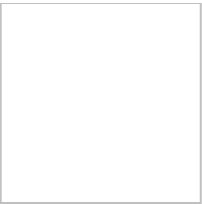
Putting the pipe down beside him, Ojiki told him the contents of his request.

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Thanks for the help again, Kyureki.
Time to go drown in homework now.

Also

Rana -> Laana

Chapter 4 – Late Night Snack and the Strange Martial Arts (First Part)

“Have to run... If I don’t... I’ll be killed...”

A young boy advanced onward, onward, and onward as he pushed aside the weeds as tall as himself. The sound of flames burning everything could be heard behind him crackled, fanning his anxiety.

Before he knew it, he had collapsed on top of a carbonized wheat field and realized that he had lost everything.

His home, father and mother, a peaceful life, and his future... The sky darkened and it began to rain heavily before long. As the rainwater struck upon the scratches and cuts on his body, he was forced to realize...that he was still alive.

“I want to die...”

The words that were suddenly uttered from his lips disappeared within the sound of the rain. Thinking to just stay on the ground as he was and become monster food, he slowly closed his eyes.

Thud!

Then he heard something fall beside him. Wondering if it was the sound of a monster’s footsteps, he opened his eyes.

A burly man with a sword in hand was looking down at him. Right beside the boy, a katana was casually stabbed into the ground. As the two of them glared at each other, the man slowly spoke.

“Live...with your own strength...”

As the man turned his back to the boy and walked away, the boy took the katana and used it as a walking stick. Enduring the pain in his body, he slowly stood up. Without looking back at the burnt remains of what was once his hometown, he limped forward after the man.

On a night with a dazzling bright moon, Yuuto suddenly awoke. The cool breeze felt on his body helped him clear away the sleepiness. The bonfire was still burning, so Yuuto added more firewood to it to increase the light.

“...”

The dream he just had suddenly came to mind. It was a nostalgic one, and he asked himself.

“I am still...alive?”

He wondered to himself as he stared at the bonfire. Yuuto had a habit of thinking that he had actually died on that day.

After realizing that his body was stiff, Yuuto got up to stretch. Seeing Laana

Village below, he recalled where he was right now.

Going back to the evening when the sun was beginning to set, Yuuto was receiving a job explanation from Ojiki Kyouusui, the head of Laana Village.

“An ore thief?”

“That’s right, though it’s only a petty thief. So simply put, the job is just to stand on guard.”

Ojiki pulled out a fist sized stone from his chest pocket and tossed it to Yuuto who caught it before taking a look. It was a black stone that had a dull shine to it. Even Yuuto could clearly tell that it wasn’t just some rock picked up from the side of the road, which meant that it was some kind of ore.

“This is... What ore is this?”

“Iron ore. What’s more, it wasn’t mined from just any old mine...”

“Meaning...?”

In response to Yuuto’s question, Ojiki held his smoking pipe in his mouth as he pondered about something for a while before suddenly breaking the silence.

“The iron ore that can be mined here is pure iron... We call it Laana iron ore and sell it on a large scale.”

“Pure iron... Indeed, this certainly shines more than ordinary iron ore...”

Ordinarily, iron ore will have some impurities within it. Because of that, when making iron products, it is necessary to firstly process the iron to remove the impurities.

However, pure iron, or rather, Laana iron ore has extremely small amounts of impurities. Roughly three to four times less than regular iron ore.

“So it’s only natural that it would be targeted... In which case, the job is...”

“That’s right... Just as you think... The job is...”

“Guarding the mine for the night huh... I’m free anyway but...”

Yuuto spoke as he yawned. Laana Village could be seen from Laana Mine, but that village was already covered in darkness. After only taking a short nap, it was already the dead of night.

The only thing in sight was Yuuto’s bonfire which provided flickering illumination for the area. As Yuuto stared at the flames, he realized another important thing.

“Come to think of it... I haven’t eaten anything since noon...”

Yuuto murmured as he realized that before his stomach growled. It wouldn’t be very filling but he might as well eat supper...or rather a late night snack. But just as he was reaching his bag for the preserved food inside it.

“Hey there boy.”

Suddenly hearing a voice from somewhere, Yuuto’s hand which was reaching for his bag quickly grabbed the katana that was beside him, then he took some distance as he turned around to face behind him where the voice had come from.


“Calm down boy... I brought you some food you know?”

Standing there was a smiling Kyouusui carrying a large leaf-wrapped bundle.

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